



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

7 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

End of Term Arrangements

As we approach the Christmas break, I would like to highlight the arrangements in place for the end of term and the start of the Spring Term. Term ends on **Friday 17 December** at **12:30pm**. Buses will depart by 12:40pm. No lunch will be served on this day.

Next Term

The Department for Education has asked secondary schools to administer one Covid lateral flow test to all students upon their return in January. Students will then move to twice weekly home testing.

To achieve this, all students will only come to school on Tuesday 4 January 2022 to be tested. School uniform is not required. Wheelers and Blue Star School buses will collect students as normal on this day. Buses will remain on site until students are tested and will then return them to their usual bus stop.

The arrangements for on-site testing are as follows:

	Year group	Time
Students who travel to school by school bus	All years	8:30am
Students who do not use the school buses	Year 7	9:30am
	Year 8	10:15am
	Year 9	11:00am
	Year 10	1:00pm
	Year 11	1:30pm

If you have already given consent for your child to be tested, no further consent is needed. However, if you have not yet done so, please complete the consent form via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/EhJzD2xUAtfxhyJA7>

From **Wednesday 5 January** at 8:35am, school operates as normal. Half Term is from Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February with an INSET Day on Monday 28 February.

Year 9 Examinations

Year 9 examinations will take place during the first two weeks of the Spring term, in classrooms during your child's timetabled lessons. Your child's teachers will inform them when each examination will take place.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

Year 11 GCSEs

OFQUAL, the national organisation which manages qualifications, has just published their latest GCSE update. The document includes new “guidance on collecting evidence to be used to determine Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) if they are needed in summer 2022”.

OFQUAL are confident that GCSE examinations will take place as normal this year, but have asked us to make contingency plans in case they are cancelled.

As we develop our plans, we wanted you to be aware as soon as possible that it is likely that we may use some evidence from the autumn term as part of our evidence base. We are, however, aware that evidence from later in Year 11 is much more likely to be more representative of a student’s performance and we will therefore be giving that much greater weight in our decisions, should it be necessary for us to generate teacher assessed grades.

Once we have more details we will contact you again, early in the Spring Term. We think that the use of Teacher Assessed Grades is highly unlikely, but we will make robust and fair arrangements for all circumstances.

New Website

We are excited to be launching our new website next week; please do make sure you take a look. We hope that you will find it easier to navigate and enjoy new features such as our Alumni page, wonderful video banner and embedded social media feeds.

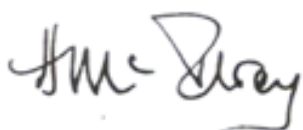
Uniform

Please support the school’s standards and expectations by ensuring that any necessary uniform purchases over the holidays are fully in line with our school uniform policies.

I’m sure you are eagerly awaiting the Christmas break and so I would like to wish all in our community a very happy Christmas and a prosperous, peaceful, healthy 2022.

Finally, I would like to thank our whole community for coming together and supporting each other over the year. There have been some exceptional challenges and we appreciate the support we have had from all of you and the wider community.

Yours sincerely



Heather McIlroy
Executive Headteacher